

**CONFIDENTIAL**

OLC 71-0683

20 July 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel,  
Senate Armed Services Committee

1. At his request I met today with Mr. Ed Braswell at about the same time the Director and Mr. Maury were meeting with Chairman Stennis. Braswell said the Chairman and he had talked with Secretary Laird this afternoon about an appearance before the full Armed Services Committee to discuss Laos. Secretary Laird, U. Alexis Johnson (Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs), and Ambassador Godley will meet with the Committee on Thursday. Braswell wanted us to know that during their conversations with Secretary Laird the Secretary volunteered to have the Director also appear before the full Committee on Thursday, commenting that the Director had already discussed Laos fully with the Foreign Relations Committee. Braswell said he thought it would be a bad idea to have the Director up on this subject. He feels that persons closest to the policy-making role in Laos should be required to state what the Administration's position is and what programs are contemplated there.

2. I told Braswell I understood that efforts were being made to eliminate or at least reduce the Agency's role in operations in Laos in Fiscal 1973, but I did not know precisely what the Director's views were on the subject. I thanked him, however, for passing on to us the information about Thursday's session.

3. Mr. Braswell also asked if I would get information for him on Communist China's atomic energy programs and any significant developments concerning their military programs. I reminded Braswell he still retained a copy of the prepared statement which the Director gave to the full Armed Services Committee on 4 March of this year which covered these subjects in depth. I told him I would check with our people, however, to see what developments had taken place since that briefing. OSR and OSI are preparing this material.



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